

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Amended) An aluminum-free single crystal seed alloy composition comprising:
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nickel; and,
in the proportion of 5 to 50 weight % a further metal selected from the Transition Series of elements in Period VI of the Periodic Table of elements.
2. (Original) A single crystal seed alloy composition as claimed in claim 1, which alloy composition has a solidification temperature which is not less than 1300°C and not greater than 1400°C.
3. (Original) A single crystal seed alloy composition as claimed in claim 1 consisting essentially of nickel and the further metal.
4. (Original) A single crystal seed alloy composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the further metal is present in the range 13 to 50 weight %.
5. (Original) A single crystal seed alloy composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alloy composition forms substantially no oxide layer when molten.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Original) A single crystal seed alloy composition as claimed in claim 1, which alloy composition contains no titanium.
8. (Currently Amended) A single crystal seed alloy composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alloy has a solidification temperature range not greater than 50°C.
9. (Currently Amended) A single crystal seed alloy composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein the alloy has a solidification temperature range not greater than 20°C.

10. (Previously Amended) An aluminum-free single crystal seed alloy composition comprising:

nickel; and

in the proportion of 5 to 50 weight % a further metal selected from the Transition Series of elements in Period VI of the Periodic Table of elements,

wherein the alloy composition has a solidification temperature which is not less than 1300°C and not greater than 1400°C, and a solidification temperature range which is not greater than 20°C.

11. (Original) A single crystal seed alloy composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the further metal comprises tungsten in the range 5 to 50 weight %.

12. (Original) A single crystal seed alloy composition as claimed in claim 11, wherein the tungsten is present in the range 13 to 40 weight %.

13. (Previously Amended) An aluminum-free single crystal seed alloy composition consisting essentially of:

nickel; and,

tantalum in the proportion of 13 to 45 weight %,

wherein the alloy composition has a solidification temperature which is not less than 1300°C and not greater than 1400°C, and a solidification temperature range which is not greater than 20°C.

14. (Currently Amended) A single crystal seed alloy composition as claimed in any one of claim 1, wherein the further metal comprises tantalum in the range 5 to 50 weight %.

15. (Original) A single crystal seed alloy composition as claimed in claim 14, wherein the tantalum is present in the range 13 to 50 weight %.

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16. (Original) A single crystal seed alloy composition as claimed in claim 15,
wherein the tantalum is present in the range 20 to 45 weight %.

17. (Original) A single crystal seed alloy composition as claimed in claim 16,
wherein the tantalum is present in the range 25 to 35 weight %.

18. (Previously Amended) An aluminum-free single crystal seed alloy
composition consisting essentially of:

nickel; and

tantalum in the proportion of 25 to 35 weight %,

wherein the alloy composition has a solidification temperature which is not less than 1300°C and not greater than 1400°C, and a solidification temperature range which is not greater than 20°C.

19. (Previously Added) An aluminum-free single crystal seed alloy composition
consisting essentially of:

nickel; and

tungsten in the proportion of 5 to 50 weight %.

20. (Previously Added) An aluminum-free single crystal seed alloy composition
consisting essentially of:

nickel; and

tungsten in the proportion of 13 to 40 weight %.

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